

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: REGIONAL PRESIDENT WARNS OF A THREAT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION

REF: PONTA DELGADA 189 (DTG 241815 MAY 77) (NOTAL)

1. REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT MOTA AMARAL WENT ON TELEVISION
THE EVENING OF JUNE 1 TO WARN AZOREANS THAT INCIDENTS ON
JUNE 6 COULD BE USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR A MILITARY INTERVENTION
IN THE AZORES AND APPEALED FOR CALM. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

-- IN LISBON CERTAIN POLITICAL FORCES ARE HOPING FOR ACTS
OF SEPARATIST INSURRECTION ON JUNE 6 TO USE AS AN EXCUSE FOR
A MILITARY INTERVENTION. CONTRARY TO NEWS REPORTS, NO TROOPS
HAVE BEEN SENT AS REINFORCEMENTS TO THE AZORES. JUNE 6 IS A
SIGNIFICANT DATE; IN PONTA DELGADA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
PORTUGAL THE PEOPLE ROSE AGAINST GONCALVISMO AND COMMUNISM.
ONLY ENEMIES OF THE AZOREAN PEOPLE
ARE INTERESTED IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INSTABILITY WHICH
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WHICH WOULD BE USED AS AN EXCUSE TO SUSPEND THE REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT, IMPOSE A MILITARY OCCUPATION, KILL CONSTITUTIONAL
AUTONOMY AND DESTROY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. THE REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT ASKS AND DEMANDS SERENITY AND WORK FROM ALL AZOREANS.
-- CERTAIN POLITICAL FORCES IN LISBON HAVE ATTACKED THE
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE AIM OF REPLACING IT WITH A
COALITION MORE TO THEIR LIKING. (A CLEAR REFERENCE TO PS

LEADER JAIME GAMA'S STATEMENTS REPORTED REFTEL.) THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CAN BE DISMISSED ONLY BY A VOTE OF CENSURE IN THE ASSEMBLY. ACCUSATIONS THAT A CLIMATE OF TERRORISM EXISTS IN SAO MIGUEL ARE POETIC EXAGGERATION; THE FACTS MENTIONED DATE FROM THE SUMMER OF 1075.THERE HAVE BEEN ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS AND USES ITS RESOURCES TO COMBAT. -- THERE ARE THOSE WHO ADVOCATE IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE; THIS IS NOT THE POSITION OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH FAVORS POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY BASED ON THE CONSTITUTION BUT SUSCEPTIBLE TO AMPLIFICATION. -- THE AZOREAN FLAG WILL BE RESTORED. A COMMISSION HAS BEEN NAMED TO STUDY ITS DESIGN. -- THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS WORKING: IT HAS ORDERED A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A SHIP REPAIR YARD, IN THE US THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INDUSTRIAL FREE PORT IS BEING STUDIED, A FOREIGN EXCHANGE ACCOUNT IS BEING PREPARED AND DECREES CHARTING NEW PATHS HAVE BEEN APPROVED. 2. COMMENT: THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE BECOMING REGIONAL PRESIDENT THAT MOTA AMARAL HAS ADDRESSED AZOREANS ON TELEVISION WHICH ILLUSTRATES THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH HE SEES THE POLITICAL SITUATION.AFTER THIS SPEECH ANY INCIDENT ON JUNE 6 IS UNLIKELY . FLA LEADER JSE ALMEIDA PREVIOUSLY SAID FLA WILL DO NOTHING PROVOCATIVE ON THAT DAY.MOTA AMARAL'S STATEMENT THAT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE IS THE clearest HE HAS MADE TO DATE ON SEPARATISM, BUT FALLS SHORT OF THE DENUNCIATION WHICH THE SOCIALIST AND EANES HAVE DEMANDED. WITHOUT DOUBT, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PS AND THE PSD IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AZORES HAVE REACHED A NEW LOW.THE IDEA THAT THE SOCIALISTS WERE AND ARE PLOTTING AGAINST THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS WIDESPREAD IN PSD CIRCLES. FOR EXAMPLE, REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MONJARDINO BELIEVES THE FLAG CRISIS WAS INSTIGATED BY THE PS IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT EANES. THERE HAVE BEEN ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE AZORES AND THE PS HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF MORE THAN ITS SHARE, BUT OTHERS HAVE ALSO BEEN TARGETS. SOCIALIST ALLEGATIONS THAT A CLIMATE OF TERRORISM EXISTS, HOWEVER, ARE EXAGGERATED. THE AZORES ARE STILL ONE OF THE SAFEST PLACES IN THE WORLD. MOTA AMARAL WAS TOUGH ON THE PS, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LEFTISTS, BUT DID NOT IN ANYWAY CRITICISE EANES. IN FACT DURING THE VISIT OF THE REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF MADEIRA,

(SEPT) HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PRAISE THE PRESIDENT. PFEIFLE

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